

Amended claims - clean copy

1. (once modified)

An improved universal fork comprising:

- a. a handle shaft, having a back end that enlarges in diameter and  
5 circumference along its length toward the back end, where said  
handle shaft also has a front end that is joined on its front portion to a  
fork head;
- b. a fork head having inner and outer tines, where said outer tines define  
curved outer edges;
- 10 c. a finger platform, on each side of the handle, comprising a  
deformation of the handle shaft at the point along the length of the  
handle on the central handle shaft, where said finger platform defines  
an enlarged flat side surface against which a person's forefinger is  
able to press against.

8. (once modified)

An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, having

- a. a handle shaft, having a back end that enlarges in diameter and circumference along its length toward the back end, where said  
5 handle shaft also has a front end that is joined on its front portion to a fork head;
- b. in which the fork head comprises inner tines and outer tines, and where the inner tines have angled sharpened ends, with the end  
10 portions of the inner tines having a decreased circumference, so that the tips will break off when a shearing stress is applied to them;
- c. a finger platform, on each side of the handle, comprising a  
15 deformation of the handle shaft at the point along the length of the handle prior to the defined fork head, [where the handle is joined to the fork head,] where said finger platform defines an enlarged flat side surface against which a person's forefinger is able to press against.